

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW APPLICATIONS FOR**  
**EXEMPTION FROM LIVING WAGE POLICY**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2008**

At a meeting of the **Ad Hoc Committee to Review Applications for Exemption from Living Wage Policy**, held Wednesday, January 9, 2008, in the Board Room, on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor of the Administration Building, Mt. Clemens, the following members were present:

Vosburg-Chair, DeSaele, Doherty, Gielegghem and Rengert.

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Vosburg called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Other Commissioners Also Present:**

Commissioner J. Flynn

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**AGENDA**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Gielegghem, to adopt the agenda, as presented. **The Motion Carried.**

**REVIEW APPLICATIONS AND DETERMINE METHOD FOR APPLYING EXEMPTIONS**

Committee was provided information that summarizes the review that Commissioners Doherty and Gielegghem went through and a list of the providers being recommended for an exemption (page one), the providers that they need more information from to complete their review and the level of detail that was used in order to make a determination.

The providers being recommended for an exemption are as follows: ARC Services of Macomb, Chrysalis Developmental Homes, Completion House, Creative Employment Opportunities, Creative Lifestyles, D.A. Residential, Homes of Opportunity, Independent Opportunities of Michigan, Inter-Disciplinary Advantage, Judson Center, Life Skills Centers, Macomb Family Services, Macomb Residential Opportunities, Michigan Share, New Passages, North Oakland Residential Services and Quest.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Vosburg, to authorize a two-year exemption from the Living Wage Policy for the providers listed above and forward to the Finance Committee.

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Commissioner Rengert expressed his concern for those who do not meet the criteria and whether they can and how many people that would affect regarding residential care. He said he will support what is being recommended today because he believes they are in accordance with the policy, but felt the policy needs to be looked at.

Commissioner Gielegthem offered a friendly amendment: to be effective as of the January Full Board meeting date and expiring when the contracts expire on September 30, 2009. That was accepted by the maker and supporter.

After brief discussion, Chair Vosburg called for a vote on the motion and **The Motion Carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Doherty explained that when this was last addressed at a Full Board meeting and sent back to this Ad Hoc Committee for work, it was her understanding that the extension of the waiver was still applicable. She said the Community Mental Health Department did not get that assumption and a letter was sent out to the providers. She said it was clearly the Board's intent that the providers continue to operate under the existing agreement and not have to implement the living wage until the Board gets through this process.

Commissioner Gielegthem felt communication to the Community Mental Health Department is needed.

Chair Vosburg asked if there were any objections to the rules being suspended in order for a motion to be made to that affect. There were no objections.

**MOTION**

A motion was made by Doherty, supported by Gielegthem, that a letter be sent to the Community Mental Health Department indicating that the exemption process is still in review and that the exemptions for providers shall continue until the work of the Ad Hoc Committee is concluded and reported to the Full Board. **The Motion Carried.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Karen Harris, Founding Director of Integrated Living in Clinton Township, and a resident of Macomb Township

Ms. Harris thanked committee for the time that has been put into this and felt they have a deeper understanding of their business and the issues they are confronting. She advocated the exemptions until the current contracts expire so that some of the funding will be restored.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION**

A motion was made by DeSaele, supported by Gielegthem, to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**

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**Corinne Bedard  
Committee Reporter**